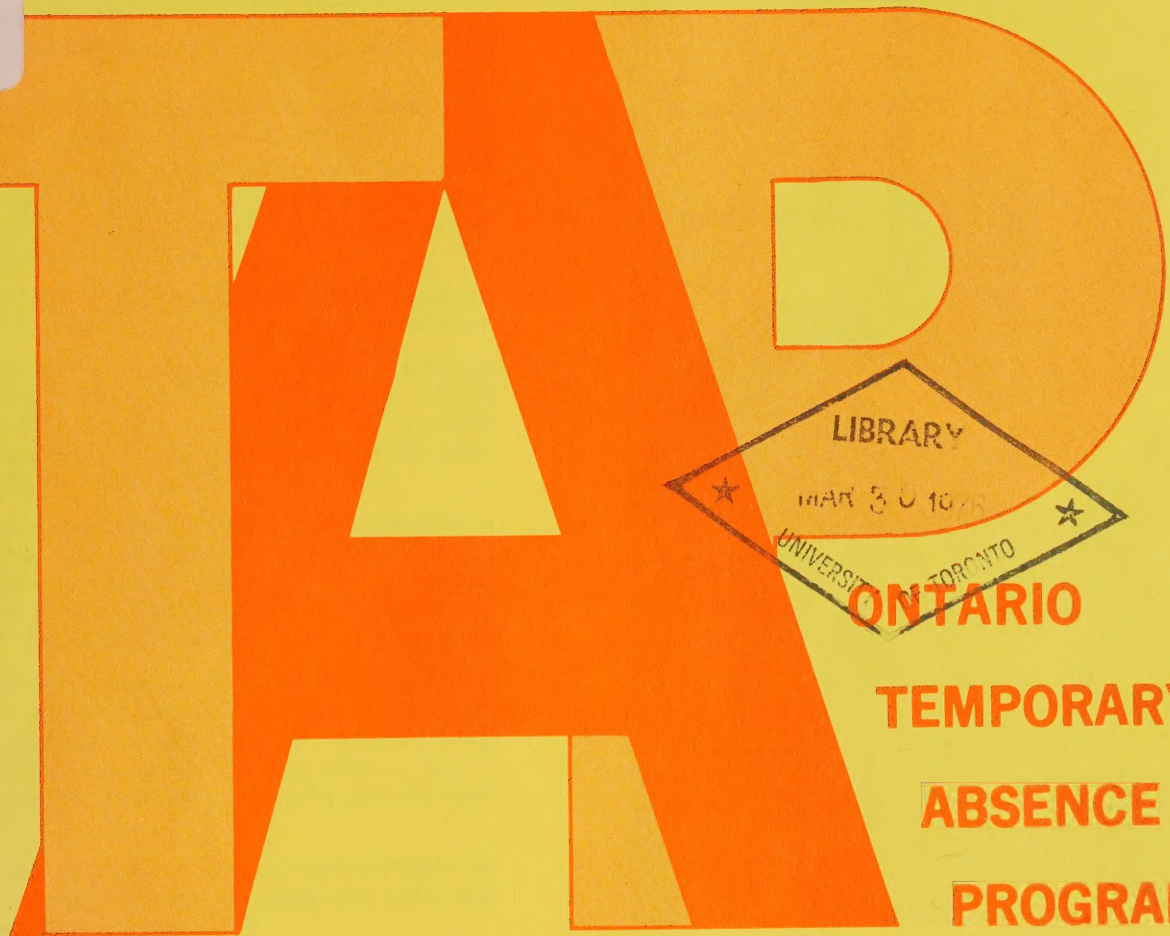


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ONTARIO

TEMPORARY

ABSENCE

PROGRAM



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Introduction

The main purposes of the Ministry of Correctional Services in the Province of Ontario are

- to carry out the legal duties imposed upon the Ministry by the courts for the protection of society, and

- to attempt to modify the attitudes of those in its care and to provide them with the kind of training and treatment that will afford them better opportunities for successful personal and social adjustment in the community.

Programs are designed with prime emphasis on these purposes and carried out in such a way that they are consonant with each other.

In achieving these purposes it is necessary to provide a wide range of facilities — academic, vocational, recreational, clinical, religious — so that opportunities can be given to the individual to acquire skills and attitudes which are likely to be valuable to him in his post-release adjustment to family and community life.

Several new dimensions have been added to the total program in Ontario during the past few years, including the Temporary Absence Program, Life Skills Courses, the establishing of Community Resource Centres in a number of communities across the province, and the involvement of volunteers in programs at the institutions.

Individuals in the Ministry's care are increasingly being given the opportunity to work in and to reestablish themselves in the community while they complete the terms of their sentences. At all times public safety is a primary consideration when a man or woman is being screened for participation in any community-based program.

The Temporary Absence Program, which was a major breakthrough in progressive programming in Ontario, has maintained a high level of success since its inception in August 1969.



Temporary Absence Programs as Conditional Steps Toward Full Rehabilitation Within the Community:

During the past decade there has been increasing public awareness that isolating from society an individual who is in conflict with the laws of that society, is a poor method of preparing him to live in a law-abiding life when he returns. Society's concern is evidenced by the steadily growing numbers of the general public who express their concerns by volunteering to work in the community with probationers or with those incarcerated in institutions.

It is generally acknowledged that once a sentence has been handed down by a judge, the punishment aspect of the sentence is complete and what follows, if there is to be an appreciable change in the individual's attitudes, must be rehabilitative rather than punitive.

The Temporary Absence Program, like any other, is not a panacea. It is not suitable for every inmate; some are not interested; some are not yet sufficiently motivated; some are unable to meet the responsibilities of and to cope with the demands of the program.

The program offsets the ill-effects and the harm of isolation, it encourages response to trust and can promote, or reawaken, a sense of family and community responsibility. Institutional and welfare costs are reduced from disbursements from immediate inmate earnings and improved possibilities for employment after completion of work or educational TA Programs.

Types of Absences:

Various types of Temporary Absence Programs are available for the individual's consideration, if he demonstrates a readiness and capacity to use them.

A temporary absence of from one to fifteen days may be granted from a correctional institution on humanitarian grounds or for purposes related to rehabilitation. Through this short-term leave, an individual can be with his family at times of crisis - a death or serious illness - or for weddings, births, to arrange financial matters and deal with family affairs and to maintain family relations and responsibilities. It will also allow for job interviews as well as counseling for proposed educational programs.

The program also makes it possible for certain inmates to leave the institution on a daily basis for education or employment, but they must normally return to the institution after their shift and spend weekends there as well.

By allowing inmates to earn a living in this way, the T.A. Program also prepares them for assuming the responsibility of a full-time job upon release.

Inmates who are earning wages as part of the program are required to pay toward their keep at the institution as well as toward the support of their families. In some cases applicants have also undertaken the payment of restitution and other debts.

In a limited number of cases a temporary absence can be granted for specialized types of medical treatment that might not be available at the institution.

Applying:

Inmates are made aware of the program through a booklet issued to them when they are admitted to an institution. While any inmate may apply to participate in the program, each application is carefully screened and reviewed by a panel of counselors and administrators and supplementary community investigations may follow.



When inmates are selected they are told of the terms and conditions that must be adhered to for their particular temporary absence.

Conditions:

Applications will not normally be considered if the inmate has committed a crime involving violence, brutality or arson; habitually used or trafficked in drugs; has a long history of alcoholism; has committed a sexual offence or has escaped or attempted to escape custody. Also, if the applicant is a remand prisoner for outstanding charges, he is less likely to be considered.

The Ministry of Correctional Services, while accepting the philosophy that this gradual reintegration into society is not only a practical but an essential aspect of correctional programming, also acknowledges that the safety of the public must be ensured. Rules governing procedures and conduct have been laid down and applicants are made aware of the basic criteria and steps for applying. They are also made fully aware of their responsibilities whilst on the program and of the provisions for suspension, withdrawal, revocation, and further institutional or court sanctions which may follow a violation.

Temporary absence is a privilege and will be revoked or withdrawn if the conduct of the participant adversely reflects upon himself or the program; if he does not abide by the terms and conditions governing his absences; if his education or employment ends or if he requests termination himself.

It is important to note that regulations set out in the Ministry of Correctional Services Act govern procedure and conduct of the program, while at the same time providing safeguards for the men and women on leave, the public and employers, against abuses of the program.

Employment:

Wherever possible an institutional representative, ideally from the probation/parole staff, will visit the prospective employer and arrange for him to sign the agreement form. In addition, this officer will discuss the payment procedure and afterward may be designated to make regular checks to ensure that the employee is working or, in the case of a student, that he is attending and progressing satisfactorily and abiding by the general terms of his absence.

Employers:

Many employers have supported the program by providing jobs for inmates on the basis of their skills and training regardless of their criminal record. They allow inmates to adjust to a working situation and assist them when problems arise.

In some cases the T.A.P. allows inmates to continue their jobs almost without break after they have been sentenced. If an employer wishes to keep an employee who has been convicted of a crime he should contact the Superintendent of the nearest institution or the Coordinator of the Temporary Absence Program in the Ministry, or his Assistant.

Employees:

The structure of the T.A.P. is such that it allows inmates latitude in their search for jobs. They may visit the potential employer's office for assessments and interviews and arrange their work schedules in such a way that they are able to take advantage of shift work and overtime. In these situations standard wages must be paid and the inmate must meet all contractual agreements.

Employers play a key role in the rehabilitation of the offender by providing him with the opportunity to earn money for his



family's keep and imposing on him responsibilities that will be vital in readjustments to society after release.

Academic and Vocational Studies:

Through the T.A.P. and with the cooperation of educational officials at all levels many inmates have been able to continue their education at secondary schools, community colleges, and universities.

Generally the arrangements for educational leave follow the same pattern as for employment.

Medical

While medical services are available at each of Ontario's correctional facilities, it is sometimes necessary to refer the inmate to a specialist or hospital for further treatment. Temporary Absences are granted for this purpose.

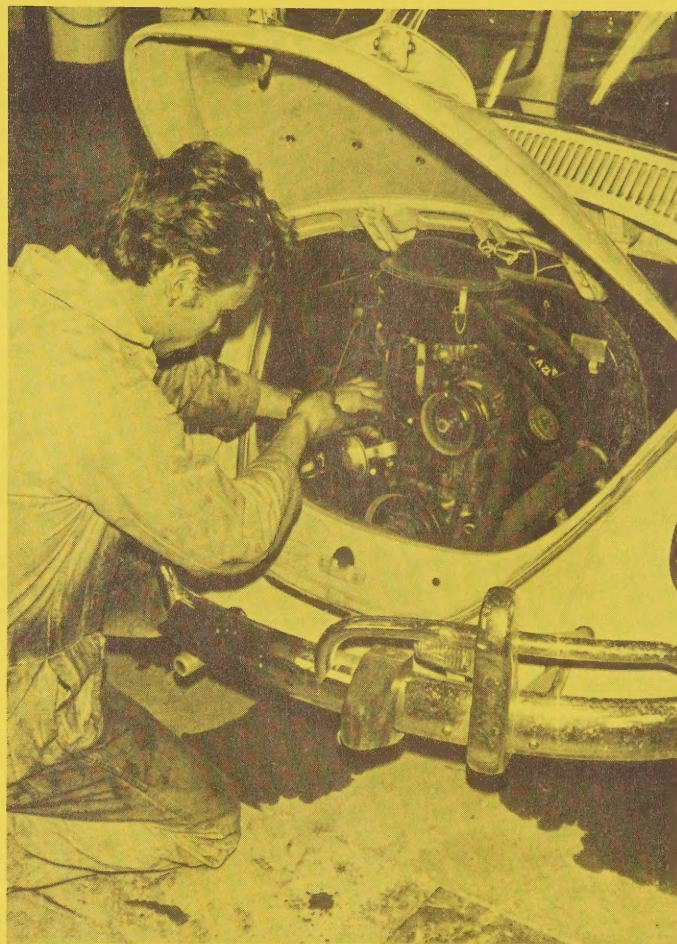
Dental and medical costs are normally assumed by inmates when they become engaged in employment temporary absences.

Is the Program a Success?

The positive and enthusiastic response of employers and inmates reinforces the Ministry's position that the program is a vital component in the complex of resources for the rehabilitation of the offender, and it is in the best interests of society to explore further means of extending these programs.

Recently, Community Resource Centres have provided new prospects for further development. A number of these centres are operating in several parts of the province and selected applicants can now live in a community setting while working or studying prior to completing their sentence.

What we have tried to illustrate in this brief outline of the Temporary Absence Program is the cooperation that is needed



between the community and the offender for successful reintegration into society. As a participant, the offender is required to display self-discipline and responsibility for the trust placed in him. In return he is given an opportunity to maintain and restore vital links with the community, to regain his self-esteem and to make a more positive contribution to his community.

The following figures represent the monthly cumulative total of all approved and active TA applications during one recent month: (These figures do not include approved and active Extended TAs in Industrial Programs at Guelph C. C. and Maplehurst C. C., in Residential Training Programs at the House of Concord or in Community Resource Centres.)

Employment	261
Educational	114
6 - 15 day	3
1 - 5 day	706
Monthly cumulative total of active applications	1084 *

** This figure includes some applications which have been granted for different reasons to the same person, eg., an employment interview, a home visit, and a job would each be recorded separately.*

This total includes TAs approved in previous months and still active.

Legislation permitting temporary absence came into effect in August 1969. The first TAP application was approved on September 13, 1969. By March 31, 1975 approximately 6 years after inception:

51,254 applications were submitted;
29,512 of these were granted.

Five hundred and four of those granted were later revoked. In



other words, 98.3 percent completed the program without recourse to further institutional or court sanctions for a violation of conditions or for further offences. The fact that less than 2 percent of successful applications had to be revoked, and therefore removed from the program, is a reflection of the importance attached to careful screening, and of the desire and capacity on the part of the vast majority of those approved for the program to participate successfully. Careful screening of the applications; institutional and community supervision of persons on TA by the resources of the Ministry; and involvement of helpful community resources with applicants are some of the reasons for the program's success. Successful participants in TAP have included representation from practically all walks of life.

Extended TA

Recent provisions for Extended Temporary Absence beyond the former 1- to 15-day limit enables selected inmates to take part in industrial-employment TA programs within institutions—such as Guelph C.C. and Maplehurst C.C.—and to reside in more open community settings such as the House of Concord and Community Resource Centres. Increased working, earning, and learning possibilities are thus provided.

Participants in the Extended TA Program are not yet included in the statistics on the facing page.

An Open Invitation

It can be readily seen from this outline that the flexibility, self-discipline and personal trust which are the basis of the Temporary Absence Program, give men and women the opportunity to redevelop a purpose in life while on partial leave from a correctional institution.

The success of the Temporary Absence Program thus far would not have been possible without the cooperation of many employers, both individual and corporate, educators at secondary, community college and university levels, service clubs, social agencies and citizens themselves. However the continuing development and expansion of this important rehabilitative program will require continued interest and participation on the part of those in the community.

Enquiries and Information

Telephone or write to the Superintendent of the nearest correctional institution or to

George G. McFarlane, Coordinator

Edward A.P. O'Neill, Assistant Coordinator

Temporary Absence Branch
2001 Eglinton Avenue East
Scarborough, Ontario M1L 4P1
416-965-4283

One of these representatives will be pleased to meet with any interested employer, educator or representative of a training agency to discuss the program and participation in it.

INSTITUTIONS OF THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

NORTHERN REGION

Correctional & Adult Training Centres

Monteith Adult Training Centre
 Monteith Correctional Centre
 Valgagne 2521
 Thunder Bay Adult Training Centre
 Thunder Bay Correctional Centre
 (807) 577-8401

Provincial Jails

Fort Frances Jail (807) 274-5771
 Haileybury Jail (705) 672-3701
 Kenora Jail (807) 468-8125
 North Bay Jail (705) 472-8115
 Parry Sound Jail (705) 746-5631
 Sault Ste. Marie Jail (705) 254-7441
 Sudbury Jail (705) 674-3151
 Thunder Bay Jail (807) 345-6721

WESTERN REGION

Provincial Jails

Brantford Jail (519) 752-5459
 Chatham Jail (519) 352-0150
 Guelph Jail (519) 822-2650
 Kitchener Jail (519) 745-5647
 London Jail (519) 434-1638
 Niagara Detention Centre
 (416) 227-6321
 Sarnia Jail (519) 337-3261

WESTERN REGION (Cont'd.)

Simcoe Jail (519) 426-2104
 St. Thomas Jail (519) 631-3372
 Stratford Jail (519) 271-2180
 Windsor Jail (519) 254-2891
 Woodstock Jail (519) 537-2411

Correctional & Adult Training Centres

Burth Correctional Centre
 (519) 484-2421
 Glendale Adult Training Centre
 (519) 426-3561
 Guelph Correctional Centre
 (519) 822-0020
 Guelph Assessment and Treatment Unit
 (519) 822-0020

CENTRAL REGION

Correctional & Adult Training Centres

Ontario Correctional Institute
 (416) 457-7050
 Brampton Adult Training Centre
 (416) 451-5580
 Mimico Correctional Centre
 (416) 255-0131
 Maplehurst Adult Training Centre
 Maplehurst Correctional Centre
 (416) 878-8141
 Vanier Centre for Women
 (416) 459-9100

CENTRAL REGION (Cont'd.)

Provincial Jails

Barrie Jail (705) 728-3933
 Brampton Jail (416) 457-5260
 Hamilton Jail (416) 527-2261
 Milton Jail (416) 878-2331
 Orangeville Jail (519) 941-3880
 Owen Sound Jail (519) 376-0435
 Toronto Jail (416) 466-2164
 Walkerton Jail (519) 881-3442

EASTERN REGION

Correctional & Adult Training Centres

Millbrook Correctional Centre (705) 932-2624
 Rideau Adult Training Centre
 Rideau Correctional Centre (613) 269-4748

Provincial Jails

Brockville Jail (613) 342-1456
 Cobourg Jail (416) 372-7432
 Cornwall Jail (613) 932-5720
 Lindsay Jail (705) 324-3792
 L'Orignal Jail (613) 675-4644
 Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre
 (613) 824-6080
 Pembroke Jail (613) 732-2561
 Perth Jail (613) 267-4303
 Peterborough Jail (705) 743-7331
 Quinte Detention Centre
 (613) 354-2171
 Whitby Jail (416) 668-7791



Ministry of
 Correctional
 Services

Honourable John Smith,
 Minister
 Glenn R. Thompson,
 Deputy Minister

